



C O U N T Y B O R O U G H O F E A S T B O U R N E .

A N N U A L R E P O R T

for 1939 on the

HEALTH OF EASTBOURNE

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Circumstances &c.

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EASTBOURNE.

TO His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of Eastbourne.

Mr Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health of
Eastbourne for the year 1939.

In view of the ever increasing pressure of work in Public Health
Departments, and also because of the need for strict economy in the use of
paper, the Minister of Health has decreed that the report should be an
interim one only and confined to "essential and urgent matters which have
affected the public health during the year". Adequate arrangements are
being made for the careful preservation of all records and vital statistics
so that after the cessation of hostilities a complete report can, if
necessary, be compiled covering the war period.

The year under review will be for ever notable for the outbreak of
the third war of the Century. Movements of large numbers of women and
children in early September from danger areas to reception areas
necessitated many and extensive changes in our social services. As a
reception area we received in Eastbourne some 4,657 unaccompanied school
children, 164 expectant mothers, and 2,800 mothers and pre-school children
under the Government Evacuation Scheme. In addition, large numbers of
people from elsewhere made their own arrangements to reside temporarily
in the town.

This sudden and large increase in the population put no little
strain on the public health organisation of the Borough. Many anxieties
and fears were experienced, more especially as regards the spread of
infectious and contagious disease, and also for the safety of large
numbers of women in the later stages of pregnancy. Towards the end of
the year there was some increase in the incidence of infectious disease,
but the position soon improved and of the 155 persons treated in the
Infectious Diseases Hospital from September onwards, all made excellent
recoveries. Of the 93 evacuated women confined in Eastbourne in the last
four months of the year, all were discharged in excellent health. This
was particularly gratifying as a number of them were confined in emergency
Maternity Units.

The further organisation and training of the A.R.P. Casualties
Services took up much of the time of the staff of the Department. Likewise,
the organisation of the Emergency Hospital Scheme claimed much attention.

The only additions to the permanent staff of the Department during
the year were the appointment of a full time Dental Surgeon, Mr M.G. Berry,
and a second Municipal Midwife.

This report is the forty-sixth of the series, and all the 45
previous reports have been presented to you by my predecessor, Dr Willoughby,
who retired on superannuation in May after so many years of able, devoted,
and efficient service to your Authority.

In conclusion, Mr Mayor, I have to thank you, the Chairman and
Members of the Sanitary and Public Health Committee, and the members of the
Council for your loyal support and help to me on all occasions throughout
an abnormal and difficult year. Also I would like to take this opportunity
of expressing my gratitude to my Deputy, Dr Parkman, to Mr Hounsom and Mr
Hookham of the Administrative Staff, to Miss Meek and the other Health
Visitors, and to Mr Lindfield and the other Sanitary Inspectors: in fact to
every member of the Department for their unfailing loyalty and ever ready,
willing, and efficient help through long hours and difficult times
throughout the year. The gratitude of the Authority and of the paid staff
is due to the many men and women volunteers who have stood by and worked
for long hours in the many additional duties brought about by evacuation
as well as in the A.R.P. Casualties Services. Finally, I wish to express

my gratitude to my fellow members of the Medical Profession in private practice in Eastbourne for their never failing co-operation and help.

I am, Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

John Fenton
Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population. Registrar General's Estimate of the Population,
Mid 1939..... 56,400.

	<u>Eastbourne.</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
Birth rate per 1,000.....	11.18.	15.
Death rate per 1,000	12.76.	12.1.
Death rate after correction by factor received from Registrar General.....	10.00.	
Nett Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births..	39.	50.
Number of Live Births. Legitimate. Males 293: Females 250. Total 543.		
Illegitimate. Males 22: Females 22. Total 44.		

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:

Septicaemia..... 1.	1.7 per 1,000 births.
Other accidents of pregnancy and child birth..... 1.	1.7 per 1,000 births.

Death rates of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	39.
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	37.
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	69.

Age Mortality.

The deaths in the various age groups were:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 1 year.....	16.	10.	26.
1 - 5 years	4.	4.	8.
5 - 15 years	4.	3.	7.
15 - 25 years	3.	8.	11.
25 - 65 years	93.	112.	205.
Over 65 years	194.	308.	502.
	<u>314.</u>	<u>445.</u>	<u>759.</u>

Principal Causes of Death.

The principal causes of death were: Heart diseases 279: Apoplexy, 47: Cancer 112: Tuberculosis (pulmonary 20, non pulmonary 6) 26: Respiratory diseases 43: Urinary Diseases 29: Violence 23.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	2.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	0.

METEOROLOGY - SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR.

Temperature. Mean daily maximum 56.5 degrees. Highest daily 80.3 degrees
Mean daily minimum 46.0 degrees. on 7th June. Lowest daily
Mean daily combined 51.3 degrees. 18 degrees on 30th December.

Sunshine. Total 1791 hours. Daily 4.91 hours. Recorded on 303 days.
Ninth highest in Air Ministry list for mainland stations.

Rainfall. Total 34.70 inches. Rain days 185. Highest daily total
2.08 inches on 13th December.

Sea Temperature. Mean daily 52.4 degrees. Annual daily range 67.6 to 38.3
degrees.

Prevailing Winds. West.

Humidity. (Averages). 9 a.m., 80 per cent: 5 p.m., 76 per cent: 9 p.m.
86 per cent.

Snow recorded on 4 days.

Thunderstorm. recorded on 9 days.

Fog recorded on 8 days.

Gales recorded on 7 days.

Ground Frost recorded during 47 nights.

EMERGENCY HOSPITAL SCHEME.

In my capacity as Deputy to the Hospital Officer of the Ministry of Health, I was responsible to him for the general hospital arrangements in the area of the Authority. Of the general hospitals of the Borough, St. Mary's Municipal Hospital continued to be administered by the Public Assistance Committee of the Council and the Voluntary Hospitals continued under their Governing Bodies. At the request of the Ministry of Health, and after a number of visits from their Officers, it was agreed that the hospital accommodation of the Borough be increased as follows:

<u>Group 1.</u>	<u>Normal Capacity.</u>	<u>Maximum Capacity.</u>
Princess Alice Memorial Hospital.....	120.	164.
St. Mary's Municipal Hospital.....	252.	412.
All Saints Convalescent Hospital.....	269.	298.
Leaf Homoeopathic Hospital.....	31.	31.
<u>Group 2.</u>		
Gildredge Hospital (Tuberculosis).....	24.	24.
Municipal Maternity Home (Maternity).....	25.	45.
Ear Nose and Throat Hospital.....	20.	20.
Royal Eye Hospital.....	14.	14.
Esperance Nursing Home.....	21.	21.
London Homoeopathic Convalescent Home.....	17.	17.

Considerable quantities of supplies and equipment were provided by the Ministry of Health for the increased number of beds.

At the request of the Ministry of Health extensive alterations were carried out, more especially to the Institution part of St. Mary's Municipal Hospital, and to All Saints Convalescent Hospital, to provide the necessary facilities in all wards for the treatment of acute cases.

St. Mary's Municipal Hospital continued to be recognised by the General Nursing Council as a complete Training School for Probationer Nurses. The extension of the Nurses Home at this Hospital was commenced during the year.

The following table relates to St. Mary's Municipal Hospital for the period 1st January to 31st December 1939, and excludes "decanted" cases but includes evacuees, viz:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
In Hospital on 31st December 1938.....	63.	114.	21.	196.
Admissions.....	328.	5088.	375.	1211.
Discharges.....	270.	483.	325.	1078.
Deaths.....	89.	98.	20.	207.
Remaining in Hospital on 31st Dec. 1939...	32.	41.	51.	124.
Total "patient" days spent in the hospital by the above cases.....	17032.	31397	10938	59417

In the above table are included the following cases from the area of the West Sussex County Council, viz:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
In hospital on 31st December 1938.....	6.	11.	1.	18.
Admissions.....	17.	33.	15.	65.
Discharges.....	17.	41.	13.	71.
Deaths.....	5.	2.	1.	8.
Remaining in Hospital on 31st Dec. 1939..	1.	1.	2.	4.
Total "patient" days spent in the hospital by the County cases	926.	1949.	189.	3064

On 1st September, 1939, 285 cases were "decanted" to the hospitals in the Borough from the London area and were accommodated as follows:

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
St. Mary's Municipal Hospital.....	87.	110.	10.	207.
Princess Alice Memorial Hospital.....	31.	46.	1.	78.

In order to provide the necessary accommodation for the "decanted" cases, 99 patients (23 males and 76 females) of the chronic type were transferred from St. Mary's Hospital to All Saints Convalescent Hospital, and a further 57 patients were sent to their homes.

Ninety eight evacuees (14 females and 84 children) were accommodated in St. Mary's Hospital during the year.

Two hundred and twenty five patients were seen in the out-patient Department of this hospital during 1939.

The following are particulars of the occupied beds at St. Mary's Hospital.

	<u>1st Jan. to 31st Aug.</u>	<u>1st Sept. to 31st Dec.</u>
Average during the year....	201.	185.
Highest number.....	229 on 12th March.	244 on 6th and 7th Sept.
Lowest number.....	161 on 31st August.	123 on 7th December.

The total "patient" days for all patients in this hospital was 70742 which was the equivalent of 193.9 beds being occupied for a full year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) Centres.

Avenue House. Acacia Villa. Hampden Park.

Attendances of children under 5....	4167.	3026.	2414.
Number of children under 1 year.....	313.	251.	144.
Number of children 1-2 years.....	109.	64.	56.
Number of children 2-5 years.....	124.	122.	117.
Attendances of expectant mothers....	59.	99.	68.
Number of expectant mothers attending.	45.	26.	39.

Sixty attendances of Eastbourne children under 5 were made at the Clinic of the Westham and District Nursing Association.

(b) Home Visiting. The six Health Visitors paid the following visits:

To expectant mothers.....	297.
To infants under 1 year.....	4078.
To children between 1 and 5..	6189.

(c) Ante Natal Clinics. Held at the Municipal Maternity Home and at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Number of expectant mothers attending....	573.
Number of attendances.....	3129.

(d) Food. Twenty six thousand three hundred and nineteen pints of new milk were issued to 282 families.

Seven thousand nine hundred and sixty two pounds of dried milk were issued to 398 families.

(e) Boarding Out. At the end of the year 10 children were boarded out by the Local Authority.

(f) Infant Life Protection. At the end of the year 32 foster mothers were receiving 48 children for fee or reward.

(g) Unmarried Mothers. Provision was made during the year for the confinement of four unmarried mothers and the subsequent care of their infants.

(h) Municipal Maternity Home. Three hundred and ninety four of the 800 notified births in the Borough took place in the Maternity Home during the year.

(i) Municipal Midwives. The midwives attended 132 confinement cases: 808 ante natal visits were made, and patients made 382 visits to the Maternity Home.

(j) Medical Assistance. Medical assistance was sought by midwives in 226 cases, viz. Maternity Home 143: Municipal Midwives 39: St. Mary's Hospital 8; and private midwives 36.

(k) St. Mary's Hospital. Thirty two confinements took place in this hospital. The Maternity Unit was closed on 10th July 1939.

(l) Dental Work. Following the appointment of a whole time Dental Surgeon, the provision of dental treatment for nursing and expectant mothers was extended during the year.

(m) Orthopaedic Treatment. One hundred children received treatment at the Orthopaedic Clinic during the year.

(n) Children in Institutions. At the end of the year there were 10 children maintained in various Institutions by the Local Authority.

(o) Cottage Homes. One hundred and eighteen children were admitted during the

year, 110 discharged, 69 remaining in the Homes at the end of the year.

(p) Emergency Maternity Arrangements. The accommodation at the Maternity Home was increased from 20 to 45 beds by the transfer of the staff to No. 1 The Goffs. In addition, two wards and a room at All Saints Convalescent Hospital were converted into an emergency maternity unit capable of accommodating 17 patients. Dr Ethel Downing was appointed Obstetric Officer by the Ministry of Health for the duration of the evacuation period.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. Both chemically and bacteriologically the water from the deep well at Friston maintained its usual high standard of purity.

Inspections and other visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

Houses inspected	678.
Complaints	385.
Re-inspections.....	3288.
Visits for sundry purposes.....	1278.
Schools inspected.....	131.
Piggeries, stables &c.....	207.
Slaughterhouses.....	3055.
Cowsheds.....	192.
Milk Shops and Dairies.....	430.
Fruiters Shops.....	280.
Fish Shops.....	266.
Butchers Shops.....	370.
Other Food Stores.....	199.
Bakehouses.....	141.
Factories.....	435.
Workplaces.....	90.
Shops Act Section 10.....	108.
Food and Drugs Act	166.
Smoke Observations.....	27.
Drains and soil pipes tested..	245.
Notification visits.....	254.
Houses disinfected.....	320.
Bedding disinfected.....	300.
Public Baths.....	47.

Places of public entertainment were inspected each quarter and sanitation, ventilation &c. reported on.

The Sanitary Inspectors are the appointed Officers for securing that the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act 1934 are complied with.

Cowsheds, farmyards, piggeries, slaughterhouses, and private stables were regularly inspected.

No statutory action was necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Two statutory notices under the Public Health Act 1936 were served during the year. Both were complied with.

Factories Act 1937.

1. Inspections for the Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

Premises.	Inspections.	No. of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecutions.
Factories with mechanical power.	136.	9	-
Factories without mechanical power.	280.	43.	-
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering but not including outworkers premises).	19.	-	-
Total.	435.	52.	-

2. Defects found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness (Sec. 1).	33.	33.	-	-
Overcrowding. (Sec. 2).	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (Sec. 3).	1	1.	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (Sec. 4).	4.	4.	-	-
Ineffective drainage of Floors (Sec. 6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7).				
Insufficient.	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective.	19.	19.	-	-
Not separate for sexes.	1.	1.	-	-
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Third Schedule to the Factories Act 1937).	25.	25.	-	-
Total.	83.	83.	-	-

Basement Bakehouses. Section 54. The condition of all basement bakehouses was examined early in the year, with the following results:

Certificate of unsuitability to continue to operate..... 3.
Certificate of suitability to continue to operate after appeal
 and works of reconstruction..... 2.
Certificate of suitability to cease to have effect..... 1.

Outworkers Premises. Section 111. No instances of outworkers in unwholesome premises were reported during the year.

BATHS. The water of the three Municipal swimming baths was examined bacteriologically at regular intervals during the year. The Baths Superintendents submitted reports weekly as to the condition of the water, and these were checked at irregular intervals. The average condition of the water was:

Free chlorine content 0.6 parts per million.
Alkalinity..... Low.....
Appearance..... Clear.
Temperature..... 73 degrees Fahrenheit

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919. The general policy adopted to secure the destruction of rats was co-operation with occupiers by the Officers of the Council. The results obtained were generally satisfactory. "Rat Week" was again successful and a considerable number of rats were destroyed at the time of taking up their winter quarters. Many complaints have been investigated and advice, and in some cases, baits, were given. Sewers were regularly baited.

HOUSING.

There were 117 persons left to be re-housed from the Alma Road Clearance Area at the beginning of the year. Two houses were erected by the Council for the purpose, and arrangements were made whereby rehousing facilities were made available in houses in course of erection by a private owner. With one exception all the families were re-housed during 1939, and 25 houses demolished. The war conditions rendered necessary the postponement of works by the owner at the portion of the Area excluded from the Order.

At the close of the year there were 394 applicants for Council houses on the waiting list.

The known cases of overcrowding at the end of 1939 totalled 112 families. No houses had at that time been built for the purpose of housing overcrowded families, but during 1939 the Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order with reference to 55.14 acres of land for general housing purposes. This Order was confirmed by the Minister of Health. The question of compensation was still under consideration at the end of the year.

The following table gives an indication of the extent of housing activities during the year:

Number of dwelling houses inspected during the year (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	679.
Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation	12.
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	231.
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action.....	212.
Formal notices served under Sec. 9 Housing Act 1936.....	19.
Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notice	
1. By Owners.....	7.
2. By Local Authority.....	-
Formal notices served under Public Health Act.....	2.
Number of houses in which defects were remedied:	
1. By Owners.....	3.
2. By Local Authority.....	-
Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1.
Number of houses demolished	1.
Number of Closing Orders made in respect of underground rooms.	-
Number of Closing Orders determined, the underground rooms having been made fit	1.
Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year.	112.
Number of families dwelling therein.....	112.
Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year....	34.
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	8.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

Licences under the above Orders were granted for 1939 as follows:

Producers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk..... 1.
Producers Licence for Accredited Milk.....10.
Pasteurisers Licence..... 3.
Other Licences..... 34.

Fifty seven samples were taken for examination, viz:

Designation.	Examined.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested.	7.	7.	-
Accredited	34.	31.	3.
Pasteurised.	16.	15.	1.
Total.	57.	53.	4.

Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Milk Producers and Wholesale Traders on Register... 20.
Milk Retailers on Register..... 102.

All the above premises were regularly inspected. Five notices for contravention of the Order were issued, and complied with.

Meat and Other Foods. There were 9 private slaughterhouses in the Borough in which killing was carried on during the year.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed.	2136.	2554	9231	20296.	17387.
Number inspected	2136.	2554	9231	20296	17387
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned ..	2.	30	4	122	12
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	78.	429.	28	580	959
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	3.7.	17.6	.35.	3.4	5.6
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	20	123	7	-	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	258.	1188	70	-	351
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	13.01	51.4	.83	-	2.1

The following imported meat and other foods were found to be unfit and surrendered:

458 lbs. Beef.	51 lbs. Bacon.	30 tins Fruit.
8 Chickens.	126 lbs. dates.	7 tins Milk.
14 stones Fish.	242 lbs. Ham.	7 tins Vegetables.
137½ lbs. Livers.	6 tins Beef.	

Food and Drugs Acts. A total of 170 formal and 2 informal samples were submitted to the Public Analyst, viz:

	Samples taken	Returned as: Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	56.	48.	8.
Other than milk	116.	116.	-

All the unsatisfactory samples of milk were deficient in fat, the deficiency varying from 1.6% to 11.6%. There were no prosecutions, all vendors being cautioned.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year 1939.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	48.	47.	95.	95.	-
Diphtheria.	26	30	56	56.	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	14	14	-	1.
Acute Primary Pneumonia	14	17	31	-	6.
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	3.	4.	7.	-	-
Erysipelas	5.	10.	15.	2.	1.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .	4.	2.	x 6.	-	-
Whooping Cough	81.	81.	162.	2.	2.
Dysentery	-	2.	2.	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.	1.	-	1.	-	1.
Measles.	1.	-	1.	-	-
	183.	207.	390.	156.	11.

x No impairment of sight resulted in any of these cases.

Monthly Summary of Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Dysentery.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Influenzal Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	Total.
January.	8	1	-	-	1	6	2	2	1	-	-	21
February.	2	2	-	-	-	7	-	2	1	-	-	14
March.	6	1	-	-	1	4	2	2	1	-	-	17
April.	2	1	-	-	2	3	3	3	1	-	-	15
May.	3	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	8
June.	7	1	-	-	1	3	-	1	-	-	-	13
July.	9	6	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	19
August.	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
September.	12	3	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	20
October.	13	9	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	25
November.	17	21	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	110	1	152
December.	15	10	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	52	-	81
TOTAL.	95	56	2	1	14	31	7	15	6	162	1	390

Scarlet Fever. Of the 95 cases notified, 37 occurred before the Government evacuation of London children to Eastbourne on September 1st, and 58 occurred after that date, of whom 22 were evacuees. Twenty nine cases were of the mild type, 60 average, and 8 were severe.

Diphtheria. Fifty six cases were notified. Thirteen of these notifications were prior to the Government evacuation scheme, but only 17 of the 43 notifications subsequent to evacuation were in respect of evacuees.

Clinically the cases were classified as follows:

	<u>Mild.</u>	<u>Average.</u>	<u>Severe.</u>
Laryngeal	1.	2.	-
Faucial	11.	22.	11.
Nasal	-	1.	1.
Nasal and Faucial.	<u>1.</u>	<u>6.</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>13.</u>	<u>31.</u>	<u>12.</u>

Bacteriologically some of the cases at the end of the year were found to be of the severe type (Gravis type-serological type 1).

Puerperal Pyrexia. The causes of pyrexia in the 14 cases were as follows:

Perineal Laceration	1.
Pleural effusion	1.
Bad laceration and albuminuria....	1.
Acute Salpingitis	1.
Caesarian Section	1.
Difficult forceps case	1.
Food rash due to food before confinement	1.
Albuminuria	2.
Breast trouble	4.
Delayed labour complicated by forceps delivery	1.

Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases. There were 11 deaths from Influenza and 2 from Infantile Diarrhoea.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Every effort was made during the year to encourage parents to take advantage of immunisation against the dangerous disease of diphtheria. With the co-operation of the local Medical Practitioners immunisation was carried out in the following cases:

	<u>Clinic Cases.</u>	<u>Private Practitioners Cases.</u>
Children of school age	149.	56.
Children under school age...	12.	18.

The numbers immunised fell a long way short of what one would desire. The immunising agent used was Diphtheria Toxoid Alum Precipitated. This reagent was also supplied on request to local Medical Practitioners.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.

Cases admitted from the Borough.

Disease.	In Hosp. 1st Jan.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hosp. 31st Dec.
Scarlet Fever.	12.	96.	91.	-	17.
Diphtheria....	2.	57.	21.	-	38.
Observation.....	1.	12.	12.	-	1.
Re-admission after Scarlet Fever....	1.	-	1.	-	-
Diphtheria Carriers.	-	9.	6.	-	3.
Scarlet Fever Contacts.	-	11.	11.	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	-	7.	7.	-	-
Measles.....	-	3.	3.	-	-
Mumps.....	-	4.	4.	-	-
Meningitis.....	-	1.	1.	-	-
Debility and Boils.	-	1.	1.	-	-
Scabies.....	-	4.	4.	-	-
German Measles	-	3.	3.	-	-
Dirty Heads.....	-	5.	5.	-	-
Tonsillitis.....	-	4.	4.	-	-
Chicken Pox	-	2.	2.	-	-
Chicken Pox Contants.	-	3.	3.	-	-
Nil - with mother...	-	2.	2.	-	-
Erysipelas.....	-	2.	2.	-	-
TOTAL.	16.	226	183	-	59.

Cases admitted from the Rural District of Hailsham.

Disease.	In Hosp. 1st Jan.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hosp. 31st Dec.
Scarlet Fever. ...	-	40.	32.	-	8.
Observation. ...	-	5.	5.	-	-
Enteric Fever.....	-	1.	1.	-	-
Mumps.....	-	1.	1.	-	-
Diphtheria.....	-	8.	6.	1.	1.
Measles and Mastoid.	-	1.	1.	-	-
TOTAL.	+	56.	46.	1	9.

The re-conditioning of "Bresch" Block with the consent of the Ministry of Health added a further 15 beds for the accommodation of patients.

Langney Hospital. (18 beds). No cases of Small Pox occurred during the year.

Acacia Villa. This Isolation Cottage was used to a very large extent following the Government evacuation of London children to Eastbourne, primarily for contacts of infectious illness, and for cases after discharge from the Isolation Hospital before accommodating them in private billets.

Laboratory Services.

Bacteriological examinations in Medical Officer of Health's Laboratory.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Diphtheria (Swabs)</u>			
For Practitioners	39.	447.	486.
For Isolation Hospital.....	131.	345.	476.
For Clinic including Contacts.	<u>33.</u>	<u>977.</u>	<u>1010.</u>
	<u>203.</u>	<u>1769.</u>	<u>1972.</u>
<u>Sputum For Tubercle Bacilli.</u>			
For Practitioners.....	25.	130.	155.
For Hospital.....	35.	36.	71.
For Dispensary.....	<u>11.</u>	<u>33.</u>	<u>44.</u>
	<u>71.</u>	<u>199.</u>	<u>270.</u>

The total number of examinations carried out was 2242. There were 1377 more in respect of Diphtheria and 12 more in respect of Tuberculosis than in the previous year.

Other Bacteriological and Pathological Examinations carried out on behalf of the Local Authority.

By the Clinical Research Association.....	52.
By Dr A.G.Shera	81.

Examinations of hairs for Ringworm by the Wood's Light Test were carried out by Dr G.P.Norman in 6 cases.

X-Ray Examinations. The following X-ray examinations were carried out by Dr G.P.Norman for the Local Authority during the year:

<u>Chest:</u>	For Tuberculosis Dispensary	31.	
	For Gildredge Hospital	<u>13.</u>	44.
<u>Orthopaedic:</u>	Education cases.....	20.	
	Maternity & Child Welfare cases.....	6.	
	Tuberculosis.....	<u>4.</u>	<u>30.</u>
			<u>74.</u>

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notifications during 1939.

Age Groups.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years..	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 to 10 years.	-	-	3	1	3	1
10 to 15 years.	1	-	1	4	2	4
15 to 20 years.	1	1	-	-	1	1
20 to 25 years.	2	3	-	-	2	3
25 to 35 years.	8	11	1	-	9	11
35 to 45 years.	1	2	-	-	1	2
45 to 55 years.	5	1	1	-	6	1
55 to 65 years.	3	2	-	-	3	2
Over 65 years.	-	2	-	-	-	2
	22	22	6	5	23	27

Of the 55 cases notified, 29 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary were new cases not previously notified in any other district.

Notification Register. Number of cases on register:

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>	
	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
On 1st January 1939..	81.	64.	26.	27.	107.	99.
On 31st December 1939.	85.	68.	22.	26.	107.	94.

Dispensary. Cases on Dispensary Register at end of 1939.

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Total.</u>
<u>Adults.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	<u>Adults.</u>	<u>Children.</u>	
<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>	
76. 53.	- 1.	3. 1.	12. 13.	159.

Dispensary Cases attending during 1939.

	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Adults.</u>	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Children.</u>
		<u>Attendances.</u>		<u>Attendances.</u>
Pulmonary - New Cases. ...	17.	32.	-	-
Old Cases. ...	43.	178.	-	-
Non-Pulmonary - New Cases.	-	-	2.	2.
Old Cases.	-	-	7.	8.
Contacts.	1	1	65.	76.
Observation.....	25.	58.	3.	3.
	86.	269.	77.	89.

Institutional Treatment.

	<u>Gildredge Hospital.</u>			<u>Other Institutions.</u>			<u>Total.</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>C.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>C.</u>	
In Hospital on 1st Jan. 1939.	8.	5.	-	2.	3.	5.	23.
Admitted during the year....	24.	20.	1.	3.	6.	-	54.
Discharged.....	21.	11.	1.	4.	6.	4.	47.
Died.....	3.	3.	-	1.	1.	-	8.
In Hospital on 31st Dec. 1939.	8.	11.	-	-	2.	1.	22.

Gildredge Hospital. (Financial year 1st April 1939 to 31st March 1940).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
"Patient" days	2779.	3200.	5979.
"Bed" days.....	1650.	1995.	3645.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases Clinic at Avenue House remained under the supervision of Dr A.G.Shera. The total attendances during the year were 2207. a decrease on the previous years figures of 927. The following are details of the cases treated during the year, the figures in brackets being those for the previous year.

	<u>Males.</u>		<u>Females.</u>		<u>Total.</u>		<u>Grand Total.</u>
	<u>Old Cases</u>	<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Old Cases</u>	<u>New Cases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Syphilis.	15 (18)	13 (8)	19 (16)	10 (10)	28 (26)	29 (28)	57 (52)
Gonorrhoea.	6 (13)	28 (40)	- (3)	12 (10)	34 (53)	12 (13)	46 (66)
Soft Chancre.	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (-)	- (-)	1 (-)
Other Conditions.	- (1)	22 (20)	- (-)	39 (36)	22 (-)	39 (-)	61 (56)
Total.	21 (31)	64 (68)	19 (19)	61 (56)	85 (99)	80 (75)	165 (174)

Pathological Work. This is carried out by Dr A.G.Shera at the Laboratory at the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital, and 956 specimens were examined.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

The A.R.P.Casualties Services comprises two fixed first aid posts, two mobile first aid posts, and five first aid party and ambulance depots. A small proportion of the personnel was on a full time paid basis, the remainder being volunteers. At the end of the year, the number of personnel available for duty was 396.

The work of the personnel has been most gratifying, the whole of them shewing great keenness by their regular attendance at the weekly practices which were held throughout the year, and also at the combined exercises held in conjunction with the other branches of the A.R.P.Services. The Authority is greatly indebted to those who have so willingly given up their time to this important service.

BLIND PERSONS.

Of the 80 blind persons on the register at the end of 1938, 7 died and 2 left Eastbourne: seven persons were added to the Register, one of whom died, bringing the total at the end of the year to 77, viz., 31 males and 46 females.

Domiciliary assistance was afforded to blind persons during the year through the Department, weekly allowances being granted to 36 cases involving an expenditure of £855...2..6.

The Home Teacher made 1014 visits to blind persons, giving instruction in pastime work, 12 persons receiving such instruction during the year.

The Eastbourne Voluntary Society for the Welfare of the Blind continued to carry on with its usual enthusiasm, excellent welfare work amongst the blind persons.

DEAF AND DUMB.

There was no change in the number of deaf and dumb persons (27) on the Register during the year. The Council continued its subscription to the Chichester Diocesan Association which deals with the placement of deaf and dumb persons in employment. The voluntary organisation for the social welfare of the deaf and dumb continued to function.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Mental Defectives. One male and three females were added to the Register of mental defectives during the year, bringing the total number of cases to 78 males and 80 females. Of these, 61 were in Institutions, 12 on licence from Institutions, 8 under Statutory guardianship, and 77 under supervision.

Domiciliary assistance to mental defectives was dealt with through the Department, thirty six cases receiving a total of £689..7..6 through weekly payments.

Mental Diseases. The Clinic at the Princess Alice Memorial Hospital continued to function successfully under Dr B.Reid. There were 77 new cases, of whom 33 were admitted to mental hospitals, the remainder being treated at the Clinic.
